



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## HB 2531 RELATING TO NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - February 25, 1988

By  
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HB 2531 would amend HRS Chapter 195-9 to clarify the purposes for which the Natural Area Reserve Fund can be used, stipulating that the fund shall be held in a separate account from all other moneys, funds, and accounts. Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Present language of HRS 195 limits the use of the natural area reserve fund to the heritage program and narrowly defines the heritage program as limited to a natural resource inventory data base of rare plants, animals and natural communities (ecosystems) in the State. HB 2531 would broaden the permitted uses of the fund to include both management needs and the acquisition of new natural area reserves. Furthermore, by establishing a clearly separated accounting system for the natural area reserve funds, contributions from private donors will be encouraged.

The proposed amendments should enhance the protection and management of Hawaii's natural area reserves, and we support the intent of HB 2531.